(c) whether any proposal with Government to give such type of promotion to C.P.W.D.—Engineers Cadre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) This Department has neither formulated any general scheme of in-situ promotions of the type referred to in the question nor any general instructions have been issued in that regard.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission

3015. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission has made a number of recommendations concerning the Central Secretariat/Central Secretariat Stenographers Services/Central Secretariat Clerical Services; and

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made and decisions taken by Government on each recommendation alongwith the reasons for rejections in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The complete details are available in the Report of Fifth Central Pay Commission. The recommendations, by and large, have been processed. However, some of the more important recommendations and decision taken thereon for Central Secretariat Service/Central Secretariat Stenographers Services/Central Secretariat Clerical Service are given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 79]

New Petrol Pumps in the Ninth Plan

3016. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of new petrol pumps proposed to be set up in the Ninth Plan in different parts of the countr}', location-wise/district-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) ; In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 927 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996—98 for different parts of the country. Commissioning of the dealerships depends on various factors such as locations advertised, interviews held by the Dealer Selection Boards, candidates appearing for interview for each location, issue of LOIs to the candidates obtaining of land and mandatory clearances, etc. by the dealers select.

Deep Sea Oil Exploration in Gulf of Kutch by ONGC

3017. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Rs. 300 crores ONGC plan for deep-sea oil exploration in Gulf of Kutch" published in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd March, 2000;

(b) the details of drilling depths, risk involved, ultradeep venture;

(c) the number of blocks offered to foreign private companies for oil exploration in 1991;

(d) the number of contracts signed and wells drilled out of the above blocks; and

(e) the reasons as to why the other blocks remained unattended and no action was taken since a decade has passed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has applied for one Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) in deep water areas of Kutch. The study of the data indicates that many prospects are present in the water depth range between 1500 to 2000 (plus) metres. The drilling depth depends upon the location of the sites for drilling over the identified prospects.

Oil exploration is a risk filled venture. Drilling in deep water requires deep water rigs and other technologies, keeping the opporunities and the challenges in view, ONGC plans to acquire both 2D and 3D seismic data, the